

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3806

To end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2012

Mr. MARINO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “One Subject at a Time
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ONE SUBJECT AT A TIME.**

7 (a) ONE SUBJECT.—Each bill or joint resolution
8 shall embrace no more than one subject.

1 (b) SUBJECT IN TITLE.—The subject of a bill or joint
2 resolution shall be clearly and descriptively expressed in
3 the title.

4 (c) APPROPRIATION BILLS.—An appropriations bill
5 shall not contain any general legislation or change of exist-
6 ing law provision, the subject of which is not germane to
7 the subject matter of each such appropriations bill; pro-
8 vided, however, that this section shall not be construed
9 to prohibit any provision imposing limitations upon the ex-
10 penditure of funds so appropriated.

11 **SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT.**

12 (a) MULTIPLE SUBJECTS IN TITLE.—If the title of
13 an Act or joint resolution addresses two or more unrelated
14 subjects, then the entire Act or joint resolution is void.

15 (b) PROVISIONS NOT EXPRESSED IN TITLE.—If the
16 title of an Act or joint resolution addresses a single sub-
17 ject, but the Act contains one or more provisions con-
18 cerning a subject that is not clearly and descriptively ex-
19 pressed in its title, then only such provision or provisions
20 concerning the subject not clearly and descriptively ex-
21 pressed in the title shall be void.

22 (c) APPROPRIATION PROVISIONS OUTSIDE SUB-
23 COMMITTEE JURISDICTION.—If an Act appropriating
24 funds contains a provision outside of the jurisdiction of
25 the relevant subcommittee of the Committees on Appro-

1 priations of the House and of the Senate, and therefore
2 outside the subject of the bill, then such provision shall
3 be void.

4 (d) PROVISIONS OF APPROPRIATION BILLS NOT
5 GERMANE TO SUBJECT MATTER.—If an Act appro-
6 priating funds contains general legislation or change of ex-
7 isting law provision not germane to the subject matter of
8 such bill, then each and every such provision shall be void.

9 (e) COMMENCEMENT OF AN ACTION.—Any person
10 aggrieved by the enforcement of, or attempt or threat of
11 enforcement of, an Act passed without having complied
12 with section 2 or this section, or any Member of Congress
13 aggrieved by the failure of the House of Congress which
14 that individual is a member to comply with any require-
15 ment of those sections, shall, regardless of the amount in
16 controversy, have a cause of action under sections 2201
17 and 2202 of title 28, United States Code, against the
18 United States to seek appropriate relief, including an in-
19 junction against the enforcement of any law, the passage
20 of which did not conform to section 2 or this section.

21 (f) STATE OF REVIEW.—In any judicial action
22 brought pursuant to subsection (e), the standard of review
23 shall be de novo.

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